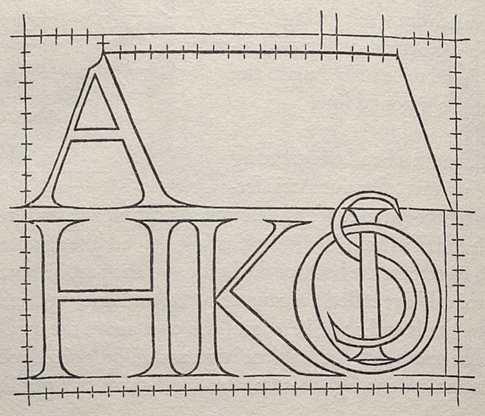
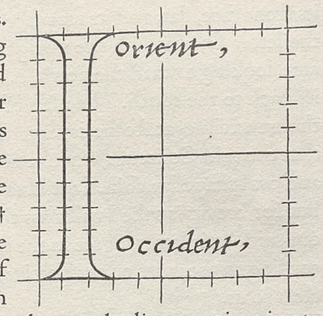
first floor, & thence
to ascend, also in a
straight line, to an-
other floor. The an-

cients, for the most part, built their stairways only in a straight line, as one can still see in many places, and as I have observed in Rome and throughout Italy; in Languedoc also, and many other places. If we seek among our letters a presentation of another sort of stairway and stairs, that is, a spiral stairway, in

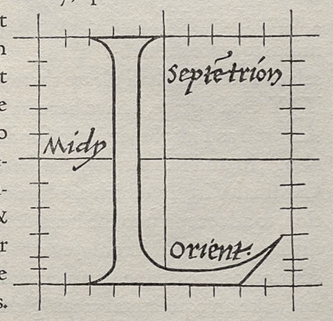
which we twist about
the centre and shaft
of said spiral, the I
and the O and the S
will give us a singu-
lar likeness thereof,
by reason of the I,
which is a straight
perpendicular line,
& representing the
shaft of the spiral, and the
O, which is the circle, and the S the
winding ascent of the stairs, which thing can be
well seen and easily understood by the following figure.



IF we demand ground plans in our said Attic letters, we shall find enough for galleries, for halls, and for theatres, which are called in France arenas *, and for Coliseums. The I may represent a plan for a long straight gallery, of uniform size, and whose long face looks to the east or the north. The L for halls & rooms which should have the longer side with their backs to the south, & the shorter side, which we call the foot † of the L, facing the east, which is the healthiest situation of all by reason of the back being turned to the south wind, which is pestilential as well to human bodies as to inanimate bodies, and by reason of the long front which receives in its face the wind from the north, which is pure and clean & brisk, by reason of the short front within the foot of the said letter L, whereinto the beautiful rising sun peers at dawn, and there remains during most part of the day, instilling sweetness; which thing I have here shown in a figure and drawing for the better understanding thereof, and to put it before the eyes of good students.



* *Arène*: '*A Theatre for Fencers; a place to joust in, strowed with gravell, and hence was that stately Amphitheatre of Nismes called des Arènes.*'—COTGRAVE.

† '*Patte.*'

I Say this in passing, because I find that few of those persons who build in the country know how to place their buildings philosophically, that is to say, scientifically & properly, albeit they have abundant space at their command. In cities, where often, by reason of the hereditary partitions that are made from day to day, spaces are restricted, one must build according to the street and according to the locality, but in the country one must use judgement that accords with nature & with the health of the human body. Whoso would have ampler knowledge hereof, let him read in Vitruvius, an author most learned in this matter, & in Leo Baptiste Albert, philosopher among modern scholars. The figure of the L as a floor plan is as follows.